

Health Officer News

January 2011

Message from the State Health Commissioner

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Happy New Year and welcome to the first issue of Health Officer News.

Since the October Health Officer meeting, we have wrapped up a busy 2010 and welcomed a new year. Thanks to discussion at the October meeting, we are embarking on a new initiative, the Health Officer newsletter. Each month, you will get to know one of your fellow health officers a little better, learn more about different divisions and programs at the Indiana State Department of Health, and be kept abreast of upcoming meetings and trainings for you and your Local Health Department Staff. We will also cover surveillance trends from the Epidemiology Resource Center, breaking news in public health, and seasonal topics throughout the year.

We look forward to working together in 2011 to improve public health in Indiana. As always, we welcome your suggestions, input, and feedback, and appreciate your efforts.

Best wishes for a safe, happy, and healthy 2011.

Greg Larkin, MD, FAAFP
State Health Commissioner

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Hot Topics in Public Health

Our "Hot Topics" section will be dedicated to seasonal topics and other issues where Health Officers request more information or research. Please send us your ideas and suggestions and we will work to make sure our "Hot Topics" are your "Hot Topics."

Epidemiology Update

News from the ISDH Epidemiology Resource Center

Local Health Department Outreach Division's Mission

The Local Health Department Outreach Division strengthens the partnerships between the Indiana State Department of Health and the local health departments through multiple modes of communication, education and training, and customer services.

Salmonella I 4, [5], 12: i - cluster update

From November 1 through December 27, approximately 94 illnesses linked to infection with *Salmonella* I 4, [5], and 12: i - were reported from 16 states. The majority of cases have been reported from Illinois, and ten cases have been reported in Indiana. Many cases, including some in Indiana, reported eating sprouts at Jimmy John's restaurants. The FDA issued a press release advising consumers not to eat alfalfa sprouts and Spicy Sprouts (which contain alfalfa sprouts mixed with radish and clover sprouts) from Tiny Greens Organic Farm of Urbana, Illinois. The sprouts were distributed in 4 oz. and 5 lb. containers to various venues, including farmers' markets, restaurants, and grocery stores in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and possibly other Midwestern states. Consumers should not eat Tiny Greens brand alfalfa sprouts or Spicy Sprouts, and restaurant and food service operators should not serve them. Consumers, retailers and others who have Tiny Greens alfalfa sprouts or Spicy Sprouts should dispose of them in a closed plastic bag placed in a sealed trash can to prevent consumption. For further information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/i4512i-122810>.

Division Profile: Local Health Department Outreach Division

The Local Health Department Outreach Division (LHD) handles the monthly ISDH-LHD Webcasts/Conference Calls, Health Officer Meetings, Public Health Nurse Conference, and the Local Health Maintenance Fund and LHD Trust Grants. The LHD Outreach Division also provides customer service to LHD staff, Health Officers, and Local Boards of Health. For more information about the Indiana State Department of Health and the local health departments, please visit the ISDH website at www.statehealth.IN.gov. If you have further questions regarding local health departments, you can contact the Director, Jessica Trimble, at jtrimble@isdh.in.gov or 317-234-6623 or use the general division phone number at 317-234-2785 or email us at LHDinfo@isdh.in.gov.

Grant Updates

The LHD manages two grants that are dispersed to Local Health Departments. These grants are the Local Health Maintenance Fund and the Tobacco Settlement Fund, also called the Trust Fund. Currently, both grants are in the process of undergoing updates in guidelines and procedures. These updates will provide the Local Health Department Outreach Division with more documentation on how the grant funds are being utilized at the local level and provide Local Health Departments with clearer guidance.

Listed below are the due dates:

Local Health Maintenance Fund

- January 31st 2011, **Annual Report due** for funding year 2010 by 4pm
- April 29th 2011, **Extension Request Form due** for funding year 2012 by 4pm
- May 1st 2011, **Application due** for funding year 2012
- October 1st 2011, **Extended Applications due** for funding year 2012
- January 31st 2012, **Annual Report due** for funding year 2011 by 4pm

The Tobacco Settlement Fund (aka the Trust Fund) due dates: (There are no extensions for this fund)

- June 1st 2011, Application due for funding year 2011-2012 by 4pm
- July 31, 2011, Annual Report due for funding year 2010-2011 by 4pm

For more information, contact Kathryn Nicely, Grant Education Manager at 317-233-7570 or knicely@isdh.in.gov.

Health Officer Profile:

In each issue, we will profile a different Health Officer. The profile will showcase the Health Officer's experience, personal and professional accomplishments, knowledge, uniqueness and history with the agency.

Meet Dr. Sean Sharma, Health Officer of Fountain/Warren Counties



- **How Long Have You Been A Health Officer?** Nearly 2 years
- **Are you a Part-time or Fulltime Health Officer?** Part time
- **Are you currently a practicing physician?** Yes
- **Medical Specialty:** Internal Medicine & Pediatrics
- **What is the most important lesson you have learned since becoming a Health Officer?** The Health Officer depends heavily on a dedicated and educated staff.
- **What's the most challenging thing you have found working as a Health Officer?** I find it a challenge to design and implement policy that is a good fit for our community as a whole, but still takes into account the differences in personal opinion or belief that may exist.
- **What advice would you give a new Health Officer?** Don't try to do everything at once, take a deep breath, and make a list of short term and long term goals.
- **What else would you like us to know about you?** It may help to know that I grew up where I live now. My family raises cattle, along with corn & soybeans on our farm. Most of my patients have known me since I was little...

Legislative Update:

As we prepare for the 2011 legislative session, look here for information impacting Local Health Departments.

Office of Public Health Performance Management:

The Office of Public Health Performance Management will provide updates and information on Accreditation, Quality Improvement, County Health Rankings and Grant Opportunities. Please look for their updates in forthcoming issues.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Newcomers Retirees and In Memoriam:

Welcome to our new Health Officers/Administrators

Dr. Brian Niedbalski, Bartholomew County
 Dr. Andrew Edwards, Benton County
 Jennifer L. Schatz, RN, Administrator, Gibson County
 Dr. Joe Rokoczy, Huntington County
 Dr. Diane Wells, Owen County
 Dr. Theresa Alexander, Starke County

Retiring

Bob Jones, Administrator, Delaware County

In Memoriam

Dr. Raymond Petrie, Health Officer, Benton County
 passed away December 7, 2010

Our Mission

The Indiana State Department of Health supports Indiana's economic prosperity and quality of life by promoting, protecting and providing for the health of Hoosiers in their communities.

Upcoming Events for 2011

ISDH-LHD Webcast	Jan 14
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (ISDH Closed)	Jan 17
Newsletter info entry deadline Feb 2011	Jan 31
ISDH-LHD Webcast	Feb 11
Newsletter info entry deadline Mar 2011	Feb 28
ISDH-LHD Webcast	Mar 11
TB Symposium	Mar 24
ISDH Health Officer Meeting	Mar 30
Public Health Week Conference	Apr 5-6
ISDH-LHD Webcast	Apr 8
Good Friday (ISDH Closed)	Apr 22
Primary Election Day (ISDH Closed)	May 3
ISDH-LHD Webcast	May 13
Public Health Nurse Conference	May 18-19
Memorial Day (ISDH Closed)	May 30

Have comments, ideas, or questions? Send them to
 Cheryl Moore, LHD Outreach Division
cmoore1@isdh.in.gov.